My essay is a critical analysis of the legacy of racial ideologies dramatized in Ojibwe writer Louise Erdrich’s novel, *The Plague of Doves*. A Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2009, the novel was inspired by a tragedy reported in an 1897 *New York Times* article, which recounted the lynching of a thirteen year old American Indian boy. Erdrich crafts a compelling coming of age novel rendered through the point of view of Evelina Harp, a young Ojibwe woman descended both from one of the lynch mob and a survivor of the tragedy. Set in the mid-twentieth century, Erdrich’s novel challenges readers’ romanticized notions of the settlement of the American frontier, as it explores issues around class and privilege within a reservation border town.